

The above money has been reported by Brother Cassel.

A committee on program was appointed consisting of R. R. Teeter, Fetter Hall and W. J. Hannan.

J. O. Talley was asked what to do in a community where there were various denominations represented but no church? He replied, "try to convert them to the Brethren."

A motion carried that some time during this conference the date for the next conference be fixed, and a program committee be appointed.

The purpose of the conference was discussed by Brother Talley. He thought the highest aim of a Christian conference was to plan and study how to save souls.

Announcements and adjourned.

#### SECOND SESSION, 7:30 P. M.

Devotional services were conducted by W. J. Hannan, and consisted of song, praise and testimony.

The retiring chairman, R. R. Teeter then preached the annual sermon, subject, "The True Church Life." The sermon was studied, and well and forcibly presented.

#### THIRD SESSION, WED. 9:30 A. M.

Devotional services were conducted by Brother Swadburg. Unfinished business was then taken up. A motion prevailed that the chairman appoint a committee to prepare a program for next year's conference to be published three months in advance of the conference. It was then decided that the next conference should meet on the first Tuesday in October, 1901.

The treasurer of the conference for last year then reported, and the report was adopted.

On motion by Brother Talley it was decided that hereafter this conference be a delegated body, and that ministers shall be considered delegates by virtue of their office, but that each shall bear credentials from their respective congregations, and that the ratio of representation be one delegate for each twenty-five members or fraction thereof.

Z. T. Livengood then read a paper on the "Management of Fickle Churches." He presented the subject ably, and was followed by discussion, all of which was profitable for the conference.

The report of the District Evangelist was then read and adopted.

#### EVANGELIST REPORT

During the past year I have held meetings at the following places. Last October at the close of the District Conference I went to Udell and preached two weeks, and closed with a love feast. There were no visible results of the meetings.

In November I went to Astoria, Ill., and preached a week which resulted in three confessions, who are awaiting baptism and one since has expressed a desire to be baptized and they are now waiting me to come and hold some more meetings and baptize them.

On November 14, I went to Auburn, Ill., and preached four sermons and tried to arrange to secure for them a pastor. Auburn, Girard, Virden and Astoria should be constituted into a mission field circuit, and a pastor placed in charge of them, and it has been my desire to bring such a thing about. It is a very promising field, but the most important point is to place a permanent worker there to not only gather in accessions but to care for them and nurture them till they grow into churches.

It is a field I have desired to canvas and organize and planned to do so last summer in May, but the dates I could give to those places would not suit all of them at that time and I promised to visit them later but it has not been so that I could do so, so far. However, they are writing urgent letters to come. I should spend a month in that field. I think that Auburn, Girard, Virden and Astoria if well organized, would be able to fairly well support a man.

In December I assisted Brother Hannan in holding a ten days' meeting at Brooklyn.

I began meetings in Chicago Mission on the first of January and continued with every night meetings into March which resulted in twelve accessions, and in creating an interest on the part of others the fruits

of which we may not estimate at this time. The work in the city is growing. The average in attendance in the Sunday-school is increasing and that too in the hot weather. Our average in the last six months has arisen from 33 1-3 to 37, and is still growing. The adult attendance is also increasing at all the services.

On March 10, I went to Stanley, Wis., and preached a week in response to several calls; the immediate results were three confessions, but baptism was postponed because the streams were all frozen, and it was arranged that I should return. I returned in May and preached two weeks which resulted in twenty-three accessions, fourteen by relation and nine by baptism.

The latter part of June I assisted in a short series of meetings at this place (Montour) which resulted in thirteen accessions. Altogether the year's work shows fifty four accessions.

I need not tell you that my work in the district has been hindered by the lack of funds. I would have held at least two more meetings, but just at the time when I had the time to do it I had not the money with which to pay my expenses to the field; however, once in the field, I doubtless could have gotten that in collections, for much money can be raised that way. But one does not relish the idea of going from home, with not enough money to get back with, especially when he realized the expenses incidental to the missionary work depending on me. But I am encouraged with the outlook, and have no complaints to make, for to complain were folly in the face of the fact that our mission work is in better condition and better organized than ever it has been before. But there is much to be accomplished yet, and I know of no way to reach better results than to just keep steadily on heedless of obstacles that may seem to be in the way, and increase our offerings to the Lord's cause. It is noticeable that the missionary spirit is growing and is healthy, as is witnessed by the more regular contributions for the work.

J. O. TALLEY.

Sister Flora then discussed the subject of "Selfishness in Church Life." Her remarks were brief but well chosen and to the point.

Adjourned.

#### FOURTH SESSION, WED. 2:00 P. M.

Devotional services by Fetter Hall. Z. T. Livengood was re-elected president of the District Mission Board.

The committee on program for the conference of 1901 was then named, i. e., R. R. Teeter, Fetter Hall, E. L. Hildebrand.

Election for District Evangelist was then held, which resulted in the re-election of J. O. Talley.

J. L. Gillin read a paper on "The Scriptural Method of Church Supervision," which was ordered published.

Brother Noah Flora being absent, the subject assigned him, "Pioneer Church Work," was discussed by Fetter Hall.

A ministerial catechism was then conducted by R. R. Teeter which was profitable in bringing before the conference the methods and personal work of the pastor.

The question box, conducted by J. O. Talley, was then opened, and many interesting questions, some of which were of vital importance, were discussed.

Adjourned.

#### FIFTH SESSION, 7:30 P. M.

Prayer by Brother Swadburg. Bible reading on "Ex-communication" by J. L. Gillin, after which Brother Livengood delivered a very able sermon on the subject of "Scriptural Justification by Faith."

#### SIXTH SESSION, THURSDAY 9:00 A. M.

Devotional services by Sister Flora. W. J. Hannan then discussed the subject of "What Inducements can the Church Offer to Young Men to Enter the Ministry." He thought that the church could offer no inducement other than her prayers, and moral and spiritual support, which if had the matter of temporal support, would not come in question.

God calls the minister, therefore the inducement must come from God.

Brother Teeter ably discussed the subject of the "Preacher in Private Life."

J. O. Talley then gave an address on the subject, "Should the District Devote its efforts to City or Rural Work." He believed that we should devote our effort to all fields where there were souls to save, and as the city offered an exhaustless field, there is one of the fields where we should work. He also believed that we should work all the fields where we have begun; hold all we have, surrender none, and enter new fields as rapidly as we may have men and means to the work.

The question box was then opened and many important questions were discussed.

Brother Hall discussed the subject, "All things to all Men."

Miscellaneous business then was taken up. The location of the next conference was left to the program committee to report and publish three months in advance of the date of the conference.

On motion by J. O. Talley, the state of Wisconsin was made a part of the Illiokota District, and all churches or missions that have been or may be organized in said state, be, and are entitled to representation in said district.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered the Sugar Creek church and friends of the congregation for their hospitality and kindly concern for the comfort and convenience of the delegates and visitors to the conference.

The following resolution was offered by J. O. Talley:

WHEREAS, in the interest of good discipline, and practical expediency we believe that greater caution should be exercised in organizing missions into self-governing bodies, as such work has not been productive of good results. Therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that missions should not be organized into self-governing bodies until such missions in some degree be self-supporting, and then by the consent and co-operation of such Missionary Board as may have supplied them support. The resolution was seconded and adopted.

A collection \$3 42 was then taken to defray the expenses of the conference. Adjourned.

J. L. GILLIN, Chairman.  
J. O. TALLEY, Sec.

#### Left Home

Our son, James Arthur Black, left for parts unknown to us and friends on September 8. He is light complexioned, is five feet and half tall, has grey eyes, and light hair. Has a small round scar on left cheek, weighs 125 pounds and is almost 18 years old. If anyone can tell us of his whereabouts please let us know by letter and it will be thankfully received, not that we intend to bring him home by force but that we may correspond with him.

SUSAN R. BLACK,  
JOHN W. BLACK.

Auburn, Ill.

#### An Eastern Trip Via Washington

Opportunity for a visit to the National Capital is afforded by tickets via Washington at same fares as apply over direct Pennsylvania Line to Philadelphia and New York. An additional stop-over of ten days at Philadelphia is granted on tickets to New York whether they read via Washington or direct. For further information apply to C. L. Kimball, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Cleveland, Ohio.